

CLAIM OR CLAIMS

1. A lift assembly for translating at least one of a batten and a load along a vertical path, the lift assembly comprising:

(a) a sensor connected to the one of the batten and the load;

(b) a hoisting motor for moving the one of the batten and the load along the vertical path; and

(c) a controller connected to the sensor and a hoisting motor for halting movement of the one of the batten and the load along the vertical path in response to a signal from the sensor.

2. The lift assembly of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is a proximity sensor.

3. The lift assembly of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.

4. The lift assembly of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is an ultrasound sensor.

5. A lift assembly having a batten and a hoist connected to the batten for translating the batten along a vertical path, the lift assembly comprising:

(a) a sensor located to detect an obstacle in the vertical path of the batten; and

(b) a controller connected to the sensor, the controller configured to stop movement of the batten in response to the sensor detecting an obstacle in the vertical path of the batten.

6. The lift assembly of Claim 5, wherein the sensor is connected to the batten.

7. The lift assembly of Claim 5, wherein the sensor is movably connected to the batten.

8. A lift assembly for selectively raising and lowering a load, the lift assembly comprising:

(a) a hoist connected to the load for moving the load along a vertical path;

(b) a sensor connected to the load to provide a signal corresponding to an object in the vertical path; and

(c) a controller connected to the hoist and the sensor to stop the hoist in response to a signal from the sensor.

9. The lift assembly of Claim 8, wherein the load is a batten.

10. The lift assembly of Claim 8, wherein the controller is wirelessly connected to the sensor.

11. A lift assembly for translating at least one of a batten and a load, comprising:

(a) a sensor fixed relative to the at least one of the batten and the load to detect an obstacle in the path of the at least one of the batten and the load; and

(b) a controller for receiving a signal from the sensor and stopping translation of the at least one of the batten and the load.

12. A method of operating a lift assembly for moving the load along a vertical path, the method comprising:

(a) terminating travel of the load along the vertical path in response to a sensor detecting an obstacle in the vertical path of the load.

13. A method of controlling a lift assembly for translating a load along a vertical path, the method comprising:

(a) locating a sensor relative to the load to detect an obstacle in the path of the load;

(b) transmitting a signal from the sensor to a controller in response to detecting the obstacle; and

(c) halting movement of the load in response to the transmitted signal.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising employing a batten as the load.